

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 041002Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO STATE WASHDC 1360

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 8183

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, XH, XE, LA

SUBJ: RECENT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES

1. DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS THE LAO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU) HAS ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH SEVERAL NATIONS, AND A NUMBER OF COMMUNIST STATES HAVE ACCREDITED AMBASSADORS HERE OR OTHERWISE RAISED THE LEVEL OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN VIENTIANE. THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS OF VIENTIANE WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN DESCRIBED AS CATHOLIC IN ITS REPRESENTATION, MAY IN FUTURE HAVE AN EVEN BETTER CLAIM TO

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SENTATION, MAY IN FUTURE HAVE AN EVEN BETTER CLAIM TO

SUCH A TITLE.

2. KOREA - CHUN BYUNG KU PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS AS ROK AMBASSADOR TO LAOS ON OCTOBER 22, 1974. HE WILL PRESUMABLY CONTINUE TO RESIDE IN BANGKOK AND LEAVE THE SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY HERE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CHARGE TAIK CHIN. AMBASSADOR CHUN'S ACCREDITATION FOLLOWS BY A MONTH THAT OF KIM SAN DJOUN AS THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR. AMBASSADOR KIM CONTINUES, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, TO RESIDE IN HANOI.

3. ROUMANIA - TUDOR ZAMFIRA, AMBASSADOR OF ROUMANIA, ALSO PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON OCTOBER 22. AMBASSADOR ZAMFIRA, WHO IS RESIDENT IN HANOI, HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO LAOS FOR OVER A YEAR. HIS SHORT STAY IN LAOS INCLUDED A CALL ON PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, IN LUANG PRABANG, AND ON THE TWO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS.

4. GERMANIES - THE PGNU ON OCTOBER 22 DECIDED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY AND AGREED TO ACCEPT DIETRICH JARCK AS AMBASSADOR. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER AMBASSADOR JARCK WILL LIVE IN VIENTIANE. (HE IS DESCRIBED IN INTELLIGNECE REPORTING AS AMBASSADOR TO THE "PRG," WITH PLACE OF RESIDENCE NOT SPECIFIED.) THE EAST GERMANS HAVE ANNOUNCED, HOWEVER, THAT AS OF NOVEMBER 4, THEY WILL HAVE AN EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE. IN MEANWHILE, ONE MR. KURT SCHUMANN HAS ARRIVE AS CHARGE. THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LAOS FOR SOME TIME WITH ITS AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN BANGKOK BUT NO RESIDENT MISSION IN VIENTIANE.

5. POLAND - POLAND HAS FOR SOME TIME ACCREDITED ITS AMBASSADOR IN HANOI TO VIENTIANE BUT HAD NO RESIDENT EMBASSY HERE. IT HAS MAINTAINED IN VIENTIANE A DELEGATION TO THE ICC. FRANCISZEK MLICZEK ARRIVED ON OCTOBER 12, 1974, AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND WILL ESTABLISH A RESIDENT EMBASSY HERE.

6. OTHER COMMUNIST STATES - THE SOVIET UNION, NORTH VIET-NAM AND THE PRC MAINTAIN EMBASSIES IN VIENTIANE
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WITH RESIDENT AMBASSADORS. CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS A RESIDENT EMBASSY HEADED BY CHARGE D-AFFAIRES. IN RECENT YEARS, CZECH AMBASSADORS TO PHNOM PENH HAVE BEEN ACCREDITED HERE. BULGARIA, MONGOLIA AND HUNGARY MAINTAIN NO RESIDENT EMBASSIES. ALL THREE COUNTRIES HAVE DESIGNATED THEIR AMBASSADORS TO HANOI AS AMBASSADORS TO VIENTIANE, BUT NONE OF THE INCUMBENTS HAS PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS. THE PGNU'S FOREIGN MINISTER, IN ANINTERVIEW WITH A

CUBAN JOURNALIST IN MAY OF THIS YEAR (VIENTIANE 3933, MAY 17, 1974), INDICATED THAT LAOS WAS WILLING TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA. (PL HAVE REPRESENTATION IN HAVANA AND CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO NORTH VIET-NAM VISITED SAM NEUA ON OCTOBER 31.) ACTUAL ESTABLISHMENT WAS APPARENTLY DELAYED BECAUSE VIENTIANE SIDE OF PGNU OBJECTED TO HAVING LAO EMBASSIES FUNDED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS. THUS WE GATHER THAT SOME FINANCIAL FACE-SAVING ARRANGEMENTS WERE EXPLORED TO COVER EXPENSES INVOLVED. IN ANY CASE, JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 4 ANNOUNCING ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. NOW ONLY ALBANIA APPEARS TO HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PGNU, WHICH IS PERHAPS A BLESSING.

7. COMMENT: UNTIL RECENTLY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN LAOS AND VARIOUS COMMUNIST STATES HAD BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE ANOMALOUS STATUS OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT AND LAOS' DE FACTO PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR WITH NORTH VIET-NAM. WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PGNU AND LAO COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, SUCH BARRIERS TO FORMAL RELATIONS HAVE CEASED TO EXIST. HOWEVER, WE ARE STRUCK BY THE SUDDEN AND SIMULTANEOUS FLOWERING OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY COMMUNIST, AND WILL OBSERVE WITH INTEREST WHETHER THIS DEVELOPMENT IS FORTUITOUS OR PART OF A LARGER SCHEME. AT THIS TIME, WE TEND TO BELIEVE RATHER THE FORMER, I.E., THIS IS AN EFFORT TO REGULARIZE RELATIONS NOW THAT THE REASONS NOT TO DO SO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

8. THE QUESTION OF THE PNGU'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE "PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIET-NAM (PRG)" AND THE "ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION" OF CAMBODIA (GRUNK) IS A MAJOR ISSUE
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BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE PATHET LAO WOULD LIKE TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM (GVN) AND THE KHMER REPUBLIC (RKG) AND ESTABLISH THEM WITH THE TWO COMMUNIST ENTITIES. THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAS RESISTED THIS PRESSURE THUS FAR. HOWEVER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER (PL) HAS BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT THE TWO PERSONS DESIGNATED AS AMBASSADORS TO THE GVN AND RKG FROM TRAVELING TO THEIR POSTS. WITH THE RETURN OF THE PRIME MINISTER THE PL MAY RAISE THE QUESTION AGAIN.

9. OUR AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE NORTH KOREAN AND EAST GERMAN AMBASSADORS SUGGEST THAT EACH IS EXPERIENCED AND POLITICALLY TRUSTWORTHY, AND THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT NORMALLY SPARE THEM FOR ASSIGNMENT TO A COUNTRY AS REMOTE AS LAOS. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY

NOTEWORTHY WERE EITHER MAN TO TURN OUT TO BE RESIDENT
HERE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC DATA
APPROPRIATE ADDRESSES MAY HAVE ON THEM AND ON POLISH
CHARGE MLICZEK AND EAST GERMAN CHARGE SCHUMANN ABOUT WHOM
WE KNOW NOTHING.
WHITEHOUSE

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